

Approved as Amended Feb. 19, 2014
OPEN SPACE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Minutes
Meeting Date January 29, 2014

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Allyn Feinberg Tom Isaacson Shelley Dunbar Frances Hartogh Molly Davis

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT

Mike Patton Jim Reeder Dean Paschall Mark Gershman Mike Orosel
Dave Kuntz Todd Doherty Don D'Amico Leah Case Michele Gonzales
Alyssa Frideres

GUESTS

Clay Douglas, Senior Assistant City Attorney
James Snow, Silver Lake Ditch and Reservoir Representative
Catherine Long Gates, Silver Lake Ditch and Reservoir Representative

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM 1 – Approval of the Minutes

Frances Hartogh said in the Dec. 11 minutes, in the last paragraph on page 1 it should say, “Frances said in the Shanahan Ridge area, people are unwilling to walk on damaged trails, which creates more and wider trails.”

Tom Isaacson moved to approve the minutes from Dec. 11, 2013 as amended. Frances Hartogh seconded. This motion passed unanimously.

Molly Davis said in the Dec. 18 minutes on page 2, in the second paragraph it should say, “. . . cutting a trench going downhill could cause potential for runoff.”

Tom Isaacson moved to approve the minutes from Dec. 18, 2013 as amended. Shelley Dunbar seconded. This motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 2 – Public Participation for Items not on the Agenda

Ray Bridge, on behalf of Friends of Boulder Open Space (FOBOS), said he commends the Open Space and Mountain Parks (OSMP) Department for its efforts after the flood. He said FOBOS appreciates the department doing a resource inventory prior to planning the North Trail Study Area (TSA). Understanding the resource before drawing lines on the map is necessary for making good decisions. In regard to the overarching issues, sustainability and carrying capacity, he hopes that the focus will stay on whether we are loving the system to death. It is important to make sure that the resources and ecosystems are sustainable for the next fifty years given the increase in recreation and climate change. It is critical that Board and City Council know whether current and anticipated uses are degrading the ecosystem and whether the use and behaviors need to change to sustain the system in the future.

AGENDA ITEM 3 – Director's Updates

Mike Patton notified the Board of Annie McFarland's change in position to the Visitor Master Plan (VMP) Implementation Coordinator.

Dean Paschall, Communication and Public Process Manager, gave the Board an update on Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) restrooms being proposed for the Chautauqua Auditorium. Allyn Feinberg asked if the restroom would only be available for use half of the year. Dean said that is still waiting to be determined. Allyn said it seems the need for restrooms would be more for those attending a Colorado Chautauqua Association (CCA) event vs. Open Space users. Tom Isaacson said he agreed that there is not a great Open Space need for a restroom in this area.

Frances asked for an update on the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) reimbursement money. Mark Gershman said the city financial manager is working with all senior staff, the city manager and different departments to keep track of work. The initial assessments are finished, and now staff is working with a company that will organize the information and then send it to FEMA; they will then decide if the project is eligible for reimbursement. Staff has taken several field trips with FEMA to see the projects that are taking place. Annie McFarland said so far they have gone to all of the trailheads in the southern part of the system and along Flagstaff Road. Mark said staff will submit a notice of intent on Friday for money to assist with the Forest Ecosystem Management Plan (FEMP) program. Frances asked if the department is planning on FEMA money to reimburse projects on the 2014 work plan. Mike said nothing in the work plan is contingent on that; it is likely the department will see some money back from FEMA and from the state, but most likely not this year. Mark said the city is focused on getting the maximum reimbursement, but will get a better idea in the upcoming meetings with finance.

Dave Kuntz gave an update on the 2014 work plan. This presentation is saved in S:\OSMP\Admin\OSBT\Minutes\Minutes 2014.

Allyn asked if the sales tax revenue is higher than projected, could the excess be used for some of these projects. Mike said that is a possibility, but additional staff will be needed to take on some of this work. The department also has several projects which will need a contractor and additional materials. Shelley asked why there are some items listed which seem to have no effect on the budget. Dave said those are projects that were carried over from last year. Tom said any extra money from sales tax could be used for some of the projects that might not have been finished in 2014 due to funding. Allyn said projects that deal with threatened resources should be a priority. Shelley asked if Gregory Canyon Road will stay on the list for 2014. Annie said yes. Allyn said Chapman Drive needs to be repaired as it is an emergency access. She said Sanitas Valley would only need to be repaired so it is in usable condition; no great need for this to return to an access road. Tom said if the decision is made to leave Sanitas in a more rugged condition than before, the public needs to be involved in that process.

Tom said there needs to be money included for the Voice and Sight Tag program implementation. Mike said there is, and it is likely to be moved up in the council priority list. Frances asked what the plan is for agriculture on Open Space. Mike said council decided to blend the initiative for local sustainable agriculture into the Open Space work plan. He believes they would like to see an increase in organic food production. Shelley said it would be helpful to have this clarified.

Shelley said flood restoration projects should remain fully funded. Frances said it would be helpful to have information on the effect of headlamps on wildlife at night, and if the Voice and Sight Tag Program is still valid when it is dark. Mark said there is still some work that needs to be done to analyze this. Frances asked if there is enough money in the budget to do this monitoring. Mike confirmed that they have the staff and the funding to do this. Shelley complimented staff on the spreadsheet, but requested that next time staff should include all of the numbers, so the Board can see all of the categories and what did and did not change. Frances asked if the standard for Chapman Drive is so that a vehicle can travel on it. Mike said yes.

AGENDA ITEM 4 – Matters from the Board

Tom asked if it was possible to expand the e-mail list for who receives the Board packet. Mike said he will look into that.

Tom announced that Mark Hesse passed away. Mike said Mark had worked with staff on a variety of projects and was a mountain expert. He helped to design several reroutes and led several volunteer projects. He dedicated his life to sustainable recreation. He had a passion for a sport and doing it in the right way. The community is losing something in not having Mark here.

The Board decided to have their next meeting on Feb. 19.

The Board asked if the emergency power line for Shanahan Ridge has gone in yet. Mike said the license is not yet complete, but is optimistic it will happen soon.

Now that the sales tax has passed, Allyn asked what the plan for bonding is. Mike said that question has been passed onto the city manager, but there is not an answer yet. He added that the process will be completed this year.

Frances asked when the Board turnover is. Staff responded that will happen in April.

AGENDA ITEM 5 – Consideration of a motion to approve disposal of 6,883 square feet or approximately 0.16 acres of Community Hospital Open Space land described as a permanent easement to Silver Lake Ditch and Reservoir Company to allow the relocation and piping of a portion of the Silver Lake Ditch and consideration of a motion to grant Silver Lake Ditch and Reservoir Company a nonexclusive license to do this work pending completion of the disposal. This is a disposal of Open Space land under City Charter Section 177 and grant of a nonexclusive license under Charter Section 175. *

Todd Doherty, Water Resources Administrator, gave a presentation to the Board regarding significant amounts of sediment which filled a portion of the Silver Lake Ditch located on OSMP Community Hospital property making the ditch inoperable. During reconstruction, the Silver Lake Ditch and Reservoir Company (the company) seeks to pipe and bury a portion of the ditch to allow for a more efficient flow of water. This presentation is saved in S:OSMP\Admin\OSBT\Minutes\Minutes 2014.

Allyn and Molly wanted to note that they both have ties to Silver Lake Ditch.

Catherine Long Gates said she appreciates staff coming up with a creative solution for this problem. Frances asked if construction will also be approved. Mike said if the Board approves this disposition and license, construction would no longer be on Open Space land. Tom asked if restoration would be needed on the vacated part of the ditch if the city would pay for that. Mike said yes, but so far he has not heard of any conversation regarding work in that drainage. Shelley asked how soon work would start on this project. James Snow said they are ready to begin as soon as the snow clears. Jim Reeder said the documents are also ready to go. Shelley asked who the ditch serves. Catherine said there are 281 share holders; City of Boulder is one of them.

Public Comment

None.

Return to the Board

No further comment.

Motion

Tom Isaacson moved the Open Space Board of Trustees approve and recommend that City Council pass a motion approving the disposal of 6,883 square feet or approximately 0.16 acres of Community Hospital Open Space land described as a permanent easement to Silver Lake Ditch and Reservoir Company for the relocation and piping of a short portion of its ditch. Shelley Dunbar seconded. This motion passed unanimously.

Tom Isaacson moved the Open Space Board of Trustees recommend that Open Space and Mountain Parks grant a nonexclusive license to Silver Lake Ditch and Reservoir Company to allow it to move the ditch and install the pipeline pending completion of the disposal. This license would terminate upon completion of the disposal. Frances Hartogh seconded. This motion passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT – The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

These minutes were prepared by Leah Case.